

Application No.: 10/823,482
Amendment dated: May 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 23, 2005
Attorney Docket No.: 2802-159-036

Amendment of the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawing(s) are replacement drawings which were required from this Office Action. There are 13 replacement pages of drawings which replace the original 9 pages of drawings filed April 13, 2004, including changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1, 2 and 3. There is also an Annotated Version of Fig. 2 (changes are highlighted) included for the convenience of the Examiner.

Attachments: 13 Replacement Sheets and 1 Annotated Sheet

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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2005. By this Amendment, claims 4-19 and 27-43 remain in this application; and claims 1-3, 20-26 and 44 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Formal, replacement drawing sheets have been included in order to overcome this objection and to assist the Examiner with the understanding of the invention.

Claims 4-19 and 27-36 have been allowed by the Examiner and remain in the specification as submitted when filed on April 13, 2004.

Consequently, the Examiner objected to claim 43 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated claim 43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (37). The undersigned attorney agrees with the Examiner and has rewritten dependent claim 43 as an independent claim in order to include all of the limitations.

Claims 1-3, 20-26 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watson. The undersigned attorney agrees with the Examiner and, thus, has cancelled the aforementioned claims.

Also, claims 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boche. The Applicants agree with the Examiner that Boche discloses a generally tubular nipple (as shown in Fig. 2A of the '325 patent) having a longitudinal axis, a first end, a second end, an outer surface with a circumferential groove located between said first and second ends for affixedly receiving a generally shell. However, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, such that the Boche reference does not have more than one circumferential groove for affixedly receiving a shell. Specifically, it is true that groove 33 (and only groove 33) is designed to receive a shell. However, grooves 38 are designed to only receive a seal. As stated in the Boche '325 patent, col. 3, ll. 32-34, "The purpose of these grooves 38 (for providing a seal between the stem 30 and swivel nut 50) is different. "The grooves 38 in the stem are for the placement of gasoline impervious o-rings 40." The

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purpose of these groove 38 (for providing a seal between the stem 30 and swivel nut 50) is different from the present invention (in which the series of circumferential grooves are designed for receiving a shell). Thus, as you can see, claim 37 brings out this difference, so therefore the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 37 and submit it is now in condition for allowance.

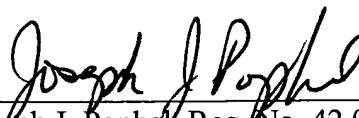
The Examiner has further rejected claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boche. Claim 41, based on the aforementioned paragraph and its dependence on claim 40, should now be in form for allowance.

Finally, the Examiner has also rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Boche in view of Boer *et al.* Claim 42, based on the above and its dependence on claim 37 should now also be form for allowance

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-19 and 27-43 should now be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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Title: UNIVERSAL FITTING NIPPLE
Inventor(s): William Fisher *et al.*
Docket No.: 2802-159-036 / Application No. 10/823,482
ANNOTATED SHEET

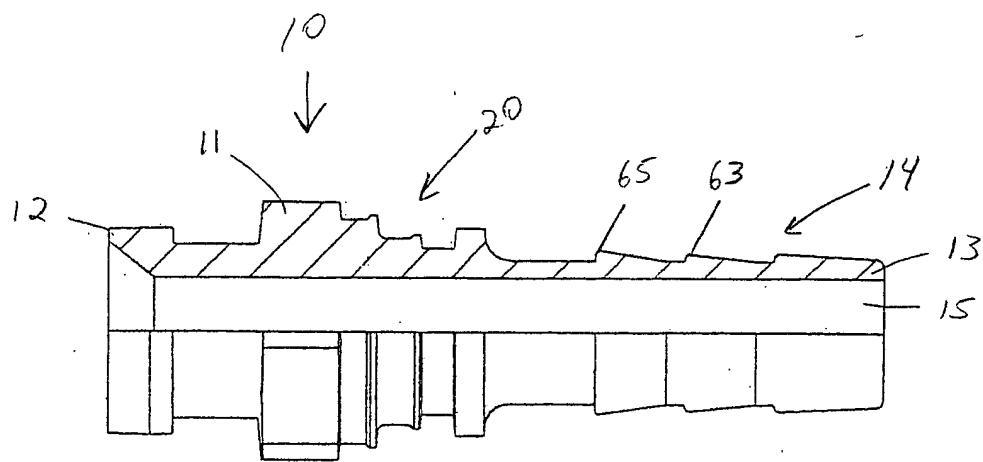


Fig. 1

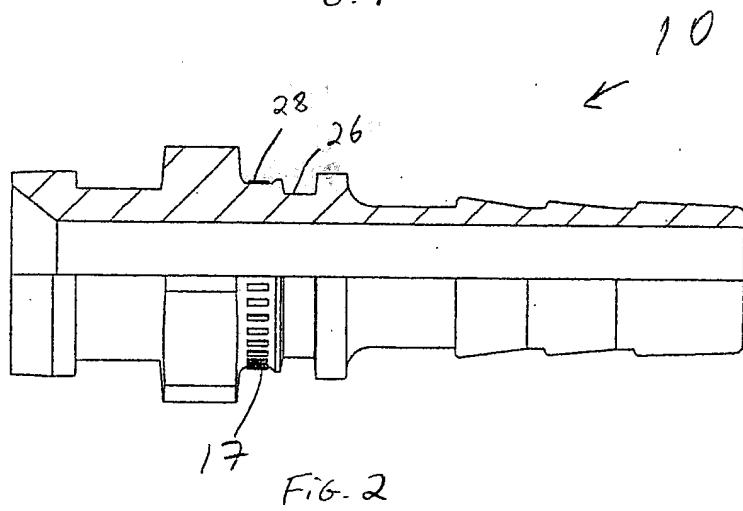


Fig. 2

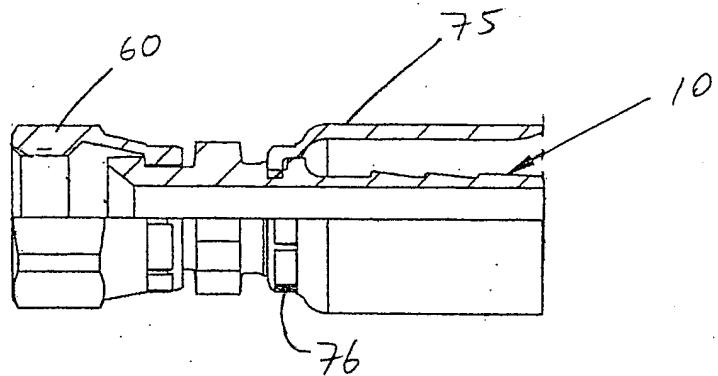


Fig. 3